

Message

From: Weekley, Erin [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D8FA6CBB166A47AB951D5FAEC0F84EF1-WEEKLEY, ERIN]
Sent: 2/9/2017 10:05:06 PM
To: Skelley, Dana [Skelley.Dana@epa.gov]
CC: Green, Jamie [Green.Jamie@epa.gov]
Subject: Congressional inquiry re: Magnolia case
Attachments: Magnolia - AL-17-000-4066.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Dana – here's a paragraph to send on to Karen/Ed and/or Dave.

Enforcement confidential

For your awareness - attached is a congressional inquiry from Senator Cornyn (TX) based on a complaint from the attorney representing Magnolia Homes, which is Chip and Joanna Gaines' company (of *Fixer Upper* fame). With HQ in lead and R7 providing technical support, we have been in negotiations with the company regarding numerous violations of the Lead-Safe Renovation, Repairs, and Painting Rule. Those negotiations stalled (but were not ended) recently when it became apparent that the company was unwilling to pay more than a few thousand dollars to settle these claims. Their attorney alleges that EPA is treating them harshly because of their religious and political views (of which we are unaware). He also argues that the penalty is unjustifiably higher than other settlements. As you are probably aware, we have information on far more properties renovated in this case than in most, if not all, RRP cases. You may also remember that this program has many lower penalty amounts due to information respondents submit about their size of business and ability to pay. Magnolia has made no claims on those grounds.

The R7 team supporting this case is meeting with the HQ folks on Monday to discuss the appropriate response, but wanted you to be aware. We have also heard that the briefing for Justin may be moved up to next week, from the week of the 20th.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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